

SENATE BILL 301

By Briggs

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5;
Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, Chapter 44, relative to
meetings conducted with electronic participation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) Notwithstanding title 8, chapter 44, part 1 and § 5-5-106, a member of
a county legislative body may participate in a scheduled commission meeting by
electronic means, including, but not limited to, videoconferencing or other web-
based media, only for the following reasons:

(A) The commissioner is required to be out of the county for the
commissioner's work;

(B) The commissioner is dealing with a family or medical
emergency as determined by the county legislative body; or

(C) The commissioner has been called into military service.

(2) A commissioner who is absent shall only participate if the
commissioner can be visually identified by the chair.

(b) A county legislative body shall not conduct a commission meeting with
electronic participation unless a quorum of commissioners is present at the physical
location of the meeting.

(c) A commissioner wishing to participate in a scheduled commission meeting
electronically who is or will be out of the county because of work shall give the chair at

least five (5) days' notice prior to the scheduled meeting of the commissioner's intention to participate electronically.

(d) A commissioner shall not participate electronically in commission meetings more than two (2) times per year; provided, that this limitation does not apply to a commissioner who is absent due to military service.

(e) The county legislative body shall develop a policy for conducting meetings with electronic participation.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.